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NSC BRIEFING

26 OCTOBER 1956

SINGAPORE

I. First outbreak of violence in Singapore, since the government's 18 September crackdown on Communist subversion, occurred on 25 October.

A. Clash developed between police and Chinese youths, supported by pro-Communist laborites, demonstrating in "sympathy" following a government ultimatum to parents to get some 1,000 - 2,000 kids out of two Chinese high schools, where they have been barricaded in sit-down strike for past two weeks.

B. Situation described as explosive; ^{by} Colony ^{WAS} has been placed under curfew. ^{NIGHT OF 25th}

C. Riots have followed the initial police clash ~~with students~~ and are reportedly taking the form of indiscriminate attacks on Europeans.

Seven Europeans included
D. Six British servicemen are in the hospital after being beaten by mobs--a total of 10 Chinese civilians and police have also been injured.

II. Government appears to be determined to stand firm.

A. Chief Minister, Lim Yew Hock, has stated that schools must cease being "schools of indiscipline in name of ~~AND INSTEAD BECOME REAL SCHOOLS OF CHINESE CULTURE~~ Chinese culture playing their part in building democratic, self-governing Singapore."

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B. Meanwhile, police have entered the two school grounds ^(WITH THE AID OF TEAR GAS)
^{AND} ^{ED} to dislodge the "sit-down" students, and British troops
have been alerted to help preserve order.

C. Students reportedly have called for help from
pro-Communist "Peoples Action Party", and from Chinese
Chamber of Commerce, but no response has yet been
heard from either quarter.